

NEWS FROM THE MADRAS SNAKE PARK
AND MADRAS CROCODILE BANK

The Snake Park was asked to catch and take away a pair of king cobras that were regularly seen in a shola at the Balanoor Tea and Rubber Estate in Chickmagalur district. Members of the Park, including Chockalingam, an experienced Irula, spent six days searching for the snakes but were unsuccessful.

The photographer Jehangir Guzdar was at the Snake Park and Crocodile Bank, covering various aspects of the two organizations. Some of his photographs will be used to publicize the Bank which still draws only about 1000 visitors a week.

Jan Nedved, a good friend of the Snake Park, sent a parcel of African, American and South American snakes for display at the Park. These are all doing well in new enclosures near the entrance.

Satish Bhaskar spent two and a half months (September-November) in the Laccadive Islands, Indian Ocean, on behalf of the Snake Park. His comprehensive report will help evaluate the status of sea turtles, dugongs and other marine life in the islands and attempt an assesment of the impact of tourism.

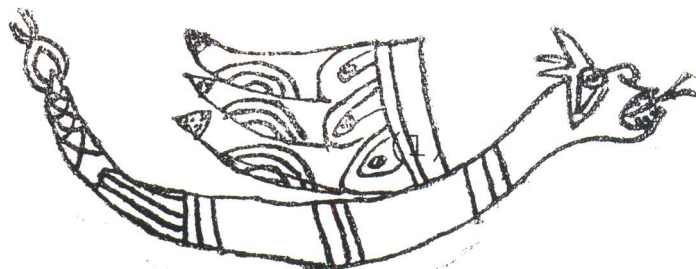
At the invitation of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon, the Director and his wife were six weeks in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in order to observe the present status of the mugger and estuarine crocodiles.

Visitors to the Crocodile Bank during September to December included the American ambassador Dr Robert Goheen, the Inspector General of Forests, and the Union Minister for Tourism, Mr Kaushik.

Jeff Power, from St Olaf's University in Minnesota, is at the Crocodile Bank for three months. He is assisting in many aspects of the care and maintenance of the crocodiles including data recording, marking and measuring crocodiles and necropsies.

The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group meeting will be held in February at the Madras Crocodile Bank.

The windmill at the Crocodile Bank has been installed. It operates a six inch piston pump to draw water from a bore well and will be the main water supply for the Bank.



HERP NEWS

First Turtle Tagging

Perhaps the earliest record of turtle tagging is mentioned in J W Bennet's "Ceylon and its Capabilities" (London, 1843). In 1794 a Dutch gentleman tagged turtles (probably greens, Chelonia mydas with riveted brass rings about 2/3 inches wide, with a legend in Dutch and Malay. In 1826 a ring was brought to Bennet from a 400 lb turtle that visited the same cove for 32 years (Turtle Cove, 10 miles from Yala, on the east coast). The author added his initials and the date on the ring and released the turtle.

Leatherback Hatchery at Yala National Park

The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon maintains a leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) hatchery at their bungalow outside Yala National Park. During egg laying season nests are bought from commercial collectors and the eggs transplanted and incubated at the hatchery. The average hatching percentage has been some 60%.

Progress of the FAO/UNDP Crocodile Project

Dr M V Subba Rao has written about the UNDP Crocodile Project in the October '77 issue of Science Today. "When the project started in late '75, there were only 60 to 70 gharial in India; within a year, 450 babies were being reared. At present, some 1400 gharials are growing in various sanctuaries...More interestingly, seven PhD scholars are working with Dr Bustard (the UNDP/FAO expert) along with 1500 tribal workers." The project envisages that once the Sathkosia Gorge (a gharial sanctuary) is restocked, the annual profit from skins alone will be as high as Rs. 1,500,000. Crocodile meat, a delicacy in countries such as Japan, may fetch upto Rs 40 a kg.

Snake Park in Tirunelveli

A Trustee of the Madras Snake Park, Dr M V Rajendran, is constructing a snake park in Tirunelveli. The Nellai Snake Park, as it will be called, has financial support from several local businessmen, and will serve as a public education center.

Crocodile Sanctuary

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has plans to create a sanctuary for the gharial on the Chambal River. The project will be financed by the Center.

Crocodile Farm Washed Away

The recent floods on the Cauvery river have washed away the Kilikudi Crocodile Farm near Grand Anicut; there are no signs of the crocodiles.

From Columbia, South America

Prof Frederico Medem of the Instituto Roberto Franco writes in a letter dated 15th October '77: "I also had an unexpected case of egg laying. A hybrid between the Dwarf and the Smooth-Fronted Caiman (Paleosuchus palpebrosus and P. trigonatus) collected from the wild in 1968, laid 12 eggs on September 27, '77. I observed her behaviour daily for four or five hours (amounting more leaves, etc) but since three days she stopped. Apparently the nest has now the desired form. Hatching should take place about the 27th of December."

SRI LANKA CROCODILE SURVEY

When we passed the lagoon, just a sandbank away from the sea, we didn't give it much thought. We got down to the business of visiting tanks and lakes within Yala National Park and trying to determine the mugger (Crocodylus palustris) population. In the evening, exhausted, we walked down to the lagoon to watch the sunset. A few feet from the lapping water, near a mangrove patch, was a tunnel with fresh tracks leading into the water. Returning at night with torches, we picked out the eyes of an adult mugger, on the far side of the lagoon, and six two week old hatchlings hiding in the mangrove patch (Deraniyagala wrote on the salt water tolerance of mugger in 1939).

With a grant and much assistance from the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon, we started out crocodile survey of Sri Lanka in mid September '77. It was the end of the drought season, and travelling as we were on a motor cycle, we knew that the monsoon was there to stay. We had just arrived during the transition period, when the mugger were returning from their dry period hideouts to the swelling tanks and streams. When the drought period begins some crocodiles go into estivation either in tunnels or in nearby jungle. The rest congregate in whatever remaining water there is.

During our five week stay in the country, we attempted to cover at least a representative number of the 10,000 tanks in Sri Lanka. Our daily routine was to travel 70-80 miles every morning, knapsack strapped to the pillion of the bike, and in the evening spend time at local crocodile habitat. We covered on the whole some 1600 miles and made detailed examination on 40 tanks, seeing 300 mugger and only a handful of estuarine crocodiles (C. porosus).

From old reports and talks with local residents, we soon found that the number of crocodiles reported by authors 20-30 years ago has dwindled considerably in the recent past. The North Central Province, once famous for crocodiles, is today almost devoid of them. Some excellent habitat still exists, both for C. palustris and C. porosus, such as the Panama Tank on the east coast. But the skin industry has taken a heavy toll. A young skin dealer offered us as many croc skins as we wanted-- "on the other side"-- that is, the risk of smuggling the skins into India on the ferry service would be his. Twenty miles west of Anuradhapura we visited an isolated tank to be told that a month before, hunters from the east coast had finished off the crocodiles with nets. Later, we met the hunters; they claimed to have killed 40 mugger, selling only the meat and leaving the skins to rot, for fear of being caught, and the low prices offered.

The status of C. porosus is difficult to ascertain, due to its extensive and often impenetrable habitat. Sri Lanka holds the largest C. palustris population within its range. If the existing wildlife laws are efficiently enforced, the estimated three thousand mugger may yet be safe.

R. Z. Whitaker

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Theft of Baby Crocodiles

Johore Bahu, Nov 16- Robbers raided a crocodile farm near here and got away with 113 baby crocodiles worth about \$6,000, police reported.

It was the second raid on the farm near this Malaysian town within three months. Thieves stole 300 baby crocodiles in their first raid.

Nearby Singapore does a thriving trade in exporting crocodile skins or manufacturing croc-skin wallets, bags and other articles (Hindu, Nov 17, '77).

Rare Snake Snared

A white cobra, a rarity among snakes, that was caught in the campus of the veterinary college at Mannuthy, has been added to the Trichur Zoo (Free Press Journal, Sep 5, '77).

Training in Crocodile Breeding

Visakhapatnam, Sep 12- The Centre has sanctioned the setting up of an Institute at Hyderabad to train personnel in crocodile breeding, and has granted Rs 12 lakhs for it.

Disclosing this, Mr T V Subba Rao...told the HINDU here that 15 candidates from all over the country would be admitted in the Institute. The training classes would be handled by two European coaches. One of them, Dr Bustard of Britain, was already here....The State Government had promised to provide the site adjoining the Nehru Zoological Park for the institute, which would start functioning by July 1978 (Hindu, Sep 13, '77).

Frogs are Useful in Many Ways

...Frogs are valuable tools in the hands of modern scientists, as they are frequently...used for various practical and research purposes. Hitherto frog poison was supposed to be fatal and of no scientific value. A new breakthrough came with the advent of frog poison in the fields of neurology and cardiology. Frog poison is a boon in disguise as it is used to analyze various processes during the transmission of the nerve impulses throughout the body and hence in small doses it has medicinal value. The poison is also used to prevent heart attacks owing to rapid, irregular heart beats caused by fibrillation...

The frog is truly a farmer's friend, for it consumes an enormous number of crop destroying insects. This has a great value for a country like India which is predominantly agricultural,. Unfortunately the unrestricted capturing of these tiny creatures has led to their depletion in some areas of India...In the midst of our grandiose "save the tiger" and "save the crocodile" projects we are ignoring the existence of these jumping jewels in nature which benefit us in so many ways (Arvind Mishra, Northern India Patrika, Oct 30, '77).

GHARIAL WALK

A 2.3 metre male gharial at the Madras Crocodile Bank climbed out of his walled enclosure on September 7 '77 and crawled a total of 650 mts within the Crocodile Bank compound, returning to the outer wall of the enclosure. Gharial are among the most aquatic of crocodilians and are rarely known to move overland for any distance.

R Whitaker
Hon Director
Madras Crocodile Bank

PYTHONS KILLED IN CHEMBUR (BOMBAY)

In August '77 a 3 1/2 ft long python (Python molurus) was killed near my home in Chembur. Ten years ago one was killed in a nearby paddi field. It is surprising that pythons turn up in such heavily populated localities such as ours. There is no jungle, nor much greenery around us. About two miles away is Trombay Hill, but in between are buildings and roads. Some months ago an 11 ft python was killed by the police on the border of Trombay Hill.

Asad Akhtar
151 Sindhi Society
Chembur
Bombay 400 071

(Pythons are protected under Schedule 11 of the Wildlife Act; any further killings should be reported to the Wildlife Warden-Ed).

APPEAL FROM TRAFFIC

The Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Traffic Group, which monitors the international trade in wildlife on behalf of the Survival Service Commission, asks that anyone with any information concerning the trade (legal and illegal) in wild animals and their products (such as skins, oils etc) should pass on such information to him. Letters should be addressed to John A Burton, Chairman, IUCN/SSC Traffic Group, c/o Fauna Preservation Society, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, U.K.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Persons interested in assisting the Madras Snake Park's sea turtle egg collection work this season (January to March '78) should contact Brenda Leveiro at the Snake Park office for details (phone 433311). 10 km long beach walks at night will be involved. Excitement is guaranteed.

CORRECTION

Mr J S Serrao of the Bombay Natural History Society has very kindly pointed out an error in the last Hamadryad, where we quoted a news report regarding the sea turtle rookery in Orissa. The rookery, says Mr Serrao, was actually discovered by S A Hussain and J C Daniel of the B N H S, with a grant from the World Wildlife Fund.

TURTLE MEAT POISONING

Severe poisoning and sometimes death from consuming hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) meat was reported as early as 1859 by Sir James Emerson Tennent in his book "Ceylon- an Account of the Island". He wrote, "The edible turtle is found on all the coasts of the island, and sells for a few shillings or a few pence according to its size and abundance at the moment. At certain seasons the turtles on the south-western coast of Ceylon are avoided as poisonous, and some lamentable instances are recorded of death which was ascribed to their use. At Pantura, to the south of Colombo, twenty-eight persons who had partaken of turtle in October 1840 were seized with sickness immediately after which coma succeeded, and eighteen died during the night. Those who survived said there was nothing unusual in the appearance of the flesh except that it was fatter than ordinary."

P E P Deraniyagala (1939) reports a belief that the hawksbill is rendered poisonous after it has fed on certain algae. "Experienced fishermen seldom eat an Eretmochelys without first chopping up its raw liver and throwing it to the crows. If the latter discard the liver, the animal is poisonous...The symptoms, according to the Medical Officer of Health, were inflammation of the mouth, vomiting, pains in the limbs, burning sensation in the stomach and scratches (probably weals) on the body."

On the south Indian Coromandel Coast, deaths from this phenomenon occur every two or three years. Turtle meat is regularly sold in coastal town markets such as Tuticorin. Live turtles are brought in from nearby villages and slaughtered in the market place; flesh blood is drunk as an elixir, and the meat sold at Rs 4-5 per kg. During a visit to Tuticorin market, species on sale were greens (Chelonia mydas), Riddleys (Lepidochelys olivacea) and hawksbills. Before hawksbill meat was sold a crude test was carried out to ensure the edibility of the meat.

In August '77 nine persons including six children (8 months to 7 years) died at Manapad, Tamil Nadu after eating hawksbill meat. Over 80 people consumed the poisonous meat on 3rd August; most of them were slightly sick and successfully treated at local hospitals.

Mr B Moraes of Manapad kindly arranged for details of the tragedy to be sent to the Snake Park. According to Dr Ramasubramanian of Udangudi, poison meat does not seem to be seasonal. He says fishermen can tell if the meat is poisonous and in this case advised that the turtle be thrown away. Symptoms, occurring two days after consumption of the meat, included vomiting, diarrhoea, giddiness and headache. Neck rigidity and unconsciousness or semi-consciousness followed, depending on severity of the attack. Death occurred another two or three days after onset of symptoms.

Dr Balaji, of the German Clinic at Manapad, found 'Siquil', an antiemetic, 'Anthisan' (food allergy) and terramycin satisfactory remedies. He states that if treatment is begun before the collapse stage, cases respond satisfactorily. He believes the cause to be pathogenic bacteria.

A WALK IN A NORTH ANDAMAN RAIN FOREST
(Written in June '77 in Mayabundar, N Andaman)

Yesterday's walk was not exactly a normal excursion through the forest; it turned out to be more interesting than usual. One of the farmer's had been cutting bamboo a month back and saw what appeared to be a nest of some sort on the ground. It sounded very interesting so we made our way toward his farm by a path that cut along the pandanus lined beach, through the mangrove and across several large streams, the home of the estuarine crocodile, Crocodylus porosus. A big water monitor (Varanus salvator) startled us, charging across our path. As we walked we flushed out an amazing variety of animal life- butterflies, birds and lizards. It was the first sunny day that week and everything seemed to be taking advantage of it. We watched a pair of Andaman Day Geckos (Phelsuma andamanense) on their palm tree near the path, several day skinks from the great 35 cm Tytler's Skink (Nabuya tytleri) to the high diving Tree Skink (Dasia olivacea). The Black-striped skink (Riopa bowringi) slithered through the grass to the safety of the thorny cane and palm tangle, and Green Forest Lizards (Goniocephalus subcristatus) of wide colour variation clung to nearly every tree in some areas.

As we waded across one of the deep streams we saw a large Green Tree Snake (Dendrelaphis cyanochloris) and got a close look at this beautiful snake with its excellent camouflage.

The old farmer was waiting for us and we set off at a good pace to a small hillock below Karmatang Hill, the second highest hill in North Andaman. Crossing a stream we entered the uncut rain forest and started uphill. The leeches were abundant and unmerciful but smearing legs and feet with raw tobacco leaves helped repel them. We finally got into the bamboo belt and the farmer slowly edged toward and pointed at a mound of bamboo leaves about 30 cms high and 60 cms wide. The area around the pile was swept fairly completely of leaves for a radius of over two metres. We approached slowly and gently poked at the pile. No snake burst out so we were encouraged to lift up the pile and peer inside. At the base was a cup of leaves about 20 cms in diameter containing 15 elongate leathery eggs. Several were slit and a tiny head which had been protruding, quickly retracted. The female king cobra (Ophiophagus hannah) had been disturbed., we were told, by a party of wood cutters about a month before. We were lucky to have arrived on the day of hatching. We took photographs and measurements and watched as most of the tiny kings scattered into the safety of the dense bamboo.

In the evening, over a venison curry and rice dinner in a wooden house in the forest, we listened to true tales of crocodile adventures and about islands where you cannot sleep on the ground at night for the numbers of sea snakes (Laticauda) coming ashore to lay their eggs.

R Whitaker
Madras Snake Park
Guindy Deer Sanctuary
Madras 600 022

INTRODUCING THE IRULAS

The Madras Snake Park has been pushing for an Irula tribal corporative self employment plan, whereby the Irula snake catchers can at least partially retain their age old traditions and knowledge of food gathering and hunting. The present wildlife laws make it impossible for them to live off hunting/gathering, and they turn to city slums and jobs. Their knowledge and understanding of natural history may die out with the next generation. An Irula Corporative, run on scientific lines, will ensure that this does not happen. Below are some extracts from the appeal that the Park made to Government.

The present trend of wildlife conservation is total protection of "preservation". It is as impossible for the present wildlife staff to achieve this as it is for police to eradicate petty theft. If we continue to alienate the people from wildlife by stringent (but unenforceable) laws by concentrating on saving a few pockets of animals in sanctuaries, we will very soon be left with a few pitiful remnants. Given the more positive and dynamic role of revenue earner and employment provider, wildlife will attract more investment into ensuring its future.

Most of the world's efforts to "rehabilitate" forest based tribals are sad and wasteful attempts which (with terrible middle class conviction) doom the tribals to the stagnant sameness of the labour class and trample any tradition and knowledge as useless.

An integrated scheme of tribals harvesting certain wildlife in farms and free range under controlled seasons and numbers could include an amazingly wide range of "forest produce". Just a few of these, suitable perhaps for an additional pilot project, will be presented in the following outline. It appears that we have the chance to reverse the trend of wildlife extermination and provide optimum self-help programmes for a large number of people.

There are roughly one lakh Irulas in Chinglepet District of whom about one tenth once subsisted solely on the reptile skin industry. The following export figures (mostly Madras and Calcutta) give an idea of the volume of this trade:

| <u>1964 to 1973</u> | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----|-------------------|
| Lizard skins | 2,518,064 kg | at | Rs. 14,730,125/- |
| Snake skins | 7,206,938 kg | at | Rs. 102,124,792/- |

A fair percentage of this crore a year could have gone into tribal snake catcher welfare and studies on the species being exploited. Because of the random, uncontrolled harvest of snakes, and the recognition of snakes as important rodent predators, the Government of India has recently imposed a partial ban on snake skin export.

An Irula snake catcher may catch one to four saleable snakes in a hard days' work. A cobra or rat snake skin (large and flawless) will earn him Rs 3 to Rs 5. All of his catch goes to middlemen and dealers. They generally take advantage of him and his hard and risky work continues to be poorly paid and sporadic. The Irula also collects edible tubers, medicinal plants, and catches hare, termites, crabs, fish etc.

HERPETOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE ANDAMANS

In April, 1975, May-June, 1976 and June, 1977 members of the Madras Snake Park Trust were on tour in the Andaman Islands. Numerous interesting animals and birds were noted. Such rarities as king cobra nests and estuarine crocodile nests were seen. 24 different taxa of reptiles and amphibians were collected and preserved for the Madras Snake Park Trust reference collection as per the following list. Several revisions and additions have been made since Smith wrote on the herpetology of the Andamans and Nicobars (1935 and 1941). He lists 65 reptiles and amphibians. The current list is 79. Several interesting systematics questions come to light in studying the literature on Andaman herpetology and specimen lists from various museum collections. Is the Striped Keelback (Amphiesma stolatus) in the Islands? Of the kraits, are both B. caeruleus and B. multicinctus there? The pit viper T. occidentalis (gramineus?) is also reported in one reference. And why have no cobras been reported other than two collected near Port Blair and deposited in the Indian Museum at the turn of the century? The lizard checklist is fairly straightforward but it is likely that the Green Forest Lizard (Gonicephalus subcristatus) will form one or two sub-species. The island frogs have not been examined in any detail; there is almost nothing in the literature; interesting work awaits the field biologist and taxonomist. The following is a revised up to date checklist of the Andaman and Nicobar reptiles and amphibians.

HERPETOLOGICAL CHECKLIST OF THE ANDAMAN

** endemic species

Sea turtles

1. *Caretta caretta*
2. *Eretmochelys imbricata*
3. *Chelonia mydas*
4. *Lepidochelys olivacea*
5. *Dermochelys coriacea*

Common Names

Loggerhead
Hawksbill
Green
Ridleys
Leatherback

Crocodiles

1. *Crocodylus porosus* A&N

Estuarine or saltwater

Snakes

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>Typhlops braminus</i> A&N | Common Blind Snake |
| 2. <i>Typhlops oatesi</i> A ** | Oates' Blind Snake |
| 3. <i>Typhlops andamanensis</i> A ** | Andaman Blind Snake |
| 4. <i>Xenopeltis unicolor</i> A | Sunbeam Snake |
| 5. <i>Python reticulatus</i> | Peticulated/Regal Python |
| 6. <i>Acrochordus granulatus</i> A&N | Elephant Trunk Snake |
| 7. <i>Gonyosoma (Elaphe) oxycephalum</i> | Red-tailed Trinket |
| 8. <i>Elaphe flavolineata</i> A | Yellow-striped Trinket |
| 9. <i>Elaphe prasina</i> A | Green Trinket |
| 10. <i>Ptyas mucosus</i> A | Rat Snake |
| 11. <i>Lioxipeltis nicobariensis</i> N ** | Nicobar Striped-neck Snake |
| 12. <i>Oligodon woodmasoni</i> A&N ** | Woodmason's Kukri Snake |
| 13. <i>Dendrelaphis ahaetulla</i> A | Bronze-back Tree Snake |
| 14. <i>Dendrelaphis pictus andamanensis</i> A ** | Andaman Bronze-back |
| 15. <i>Dendrelaphis cyanochloris</i> A&N | Green Tree Snake |
| 16. <i>Chrysopelea paradisi</i> A, Narcondam | Paradise Flying Snake |
| 17. <i>Lycodon aulicus capucinus</i> A&N | Brown Wolf Snake |
| 18. <i>Lycodon tivarii</i> A ** | Tivari's Wolf Snake |
| 19. <i>Sibynophis bistrigatus</i> N | Black-headed Hill Snake |
| 20. <i>Xenochropis piscator andamanensis</i> A ** | Andaman Water Snake |
| 21. <i>Matrix nicobarensis</i> N ** | Nicobar Water Snake |
| 22. <i>Amphiesma stolata</i> A | Striped Keelback |
| 23. <i>Boiga ochracea walli</i> A&N | Wall's Cat Snake |
| 24. <i>Boiga andamanensis</i> A ** | Andaman Cat Snake |
| 25. <i>Cerberus rhynchops</i> A&N | Dog-faced Water Snake |

AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, BAY OF BENGAL

- R Whitaker

| <u>M S P T</u> <u>REF NO</u> | <u>Collection Locality</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (seen) (seen) | Interview Island Wandur, So Andaman | Killed for shell Erten. Killed for meat |
| MSP | Parangara, No Andaman | Killed for meat, skin, fat, gall bladder. (Protd) |
| MSP 37 | Port Blair, So Andaman | |
| (seen) | Diglipur, No Andaman | Killed for skin. (Protd) Important rodent eater " " " " " " Diglipur, No Andaman " " " |
| (seen) | Mayabundar; Port Blair | Very common |
| MSP 70 | Dhankari Dam, So Andaman | |
| MSP 66 | Bamboo Flat, So Andaman | Very common |
| MSP 71 MSP 73 | Mayabundar, No Andaman Mayabundar, No Andaman | Very common |

...contd

(herpetological checklist of the Andaman & Nicobars)

(Snakes)

26. *Fordonia leucohalia* N
27. *Cantoria violacea* A

(Common Name)

Brown Swamp-Snake
Banded Swamp-Snake

Venomous

28. *Ophiophagus hannah* A
29. *Naja naja kaouthia* A
30. *Bungarus caeruleus* A
31. *Bungarus multicinctus* A
32. *Laticauda laticauda* N
33. *Laticauda colubrina* A&N
34. *Trimeresurus cantoris* A&N **
35. *Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus*
 andersoni A&N **
36. *Trimeresurus albolabris* A&N
37. *Trimeresurus labialis* N **
38. *Trimeresurus occidentalis* A (?)

King Cobra
Monocellate Cobra
Common Krait
Many Banded Krait
Amphibious Sea Snake Snake
Colubrine Amphibious Sea/
Cantor's Pit Viper
Andaman Pit Viper

White-lipped Pit Viper
Brown-spotted Pit Viper
Green Pit Viper

Lizards

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>Cyrtodactylus rubidus</i> A, Narcondam, ** | Curl-tailed Gekko |
| 2. <i>Cnemidopsis bandiana</i> A, Narcon. | Forest Day Gekko |
| 3. <i>Gekko gekko</i> A | Tokay Gekko |
| 4. <i>Gekko smithi</i> A, Narcondam | Smith's Gekko |
| 5. <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> A&N | House Gekko |
| 6. <i>Gehyra mutilata</i> A&N | Spotted Gekko |
| 7. <i>Ptychozoon kuhli</i> N | Flying Gekko |
| 8. <i>Platyurus</i> sp A | Flap-sided Gekko |
| 9. <i>Lepidodactylus lugubris</i> A&N | Stripe-headed Gekko |
| 10. <i>Phelsuma andamanense</i> A, Narcon** | Andaman Day Gekko |
| 11. <i>Goniocephalus subcristatus</i> A&N ** | Green Forest Lizard |
| 12. <i>Calotes cristatellus</i> N | Green Garden Lizard |
| 13. <i>Calotes jubatus</i> N | Spotted Garden Lizard |
| 14. <i>Calotes versicolor</i> A | Common Garden Lizard |
| 15. <i>Calotes mystaceus</i> A&N | White-lipped Garden Lizard |
| 16. <i>Calotes andamanensis</i> A ** | Andaman Garden Lizard |
| 17. <i>Varanus salvator</i> A&N, Narc. | Water Monitor Lizard |
| 18. <i>Eubuya tytleri</i> A, Narc. ** | Tytler's Skink |
| 19. <i>Eubuya andamanensis</i> A&N ** | Andaman Skink |
| 20. <i>Eubuya multifasciata</i> N, Narc. | Lined Skink |

(M S P T (Collection Locality)
REF NO)

(Notes)

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| MSP 65 | Mayabundar, No Andaman | Juvenile, coll. from nest |
| MSP | Diglipur; Mayabundar | |
| | | Very common on certain rocky islands |
| MSP 74 | Chidiatapu Rd, So Andaman | Very common |
| MSP 47 | Port Blair, So Andaman | Very common |
| MSP 60 | Parangara, No Andaman | Very common |
| MSP 53 | Diglipur, No Andaman | |
| MSP 35 | Port Blair, So Andaman | Very common |
| MSP 40 | Birchgunj Rd, So Andaman | First record of this genus in the Andamans |
| MSP 46 | Port Blair, So Andaman | Common |
| MSP 39 | Dhankari Dam, So Andaman | Very common. |
| MSP 12 | Smith Island, No Andaman | Common |
| MSP | Bamboo Flat, So Andaman | Killed for meat & fat (Prot |
| MSP 56 | Blair Bay, No Andaman | Common |
| (seen) | Bamboo Flat, So Andaman | |

21. *Mabuya rugifera* N
22. *Sphenomorphus* (*Lygosoma*) *maculatus*
A&N, Narcondam
23. *Leiolopisma macrotympanum* A
24. *Leiolopisma macrotis* N **
25. *Riopa bowringi* A
26. *Dibamus novae-guinae* N
27. *Typhloscincus nicobæricus* N **
28. *Dasia olivacea* A&N

Brown Skink
Bronze-back Skink
White-striped Skink
Lesser Brown Skink
Black-striped Skink
New Guinea Legless Lizard
Nicobar Legless Skink
Tree Skink

Amphibians

1. *Rana tigrina* (?)
2. *Rana doriae*
3. *Rana andamanensis* (*limnocharis*)
4. *Rana erythraea* A
5. *Rana nicobariensis* N
6. *Rana breviceps* A
7. *Microhyla rubra*
8. *Kaloula baleata ghoshi*
9. *Bufo melanostictus*

Bull Frog
Brown Frog
Andaman Frog
Side-striped Frog
Nicobar Frog
Burrowing Frog
Red Narrow-mouthed Frog
Ghosh's Painted Frog
Indian Toad

| <u>M S P T</u> <u>Ref No</u> | <u>Collection Locality</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| MSP 6 | Mayabundar, No Andaman | |
| MSP 59 | Parangara, No Andaman | Very common Common |
| MSP 42 | Chidiatapu, So Andaman | |
| MSP 63 | Dhankari Dam, So Andaman | |
| MSP 43 | Port Blair, So Andaman | Common |
| MSP 67 | Bamboo Flat, So Andaman | |
| MSP 3 | Aerial Bay, No Andaman | |

References:

Stoliczka, F., Observations on Some Indian and Malayan Amphibia and Reptilia, J. As. Soc. Bengal, Vol 39, No 2, 1870, pp 134-228.

Annandale, N., Contribution to Oriental Herp. Part 1, The Lizards of the Andamans, J.As.Soc.Bengal, Vol 73, 1904, pp 12-22.

Annandale, N., Addition to the Collection of Oriental Snakes in the Indian Museum, Part 11- Specimens from the Andamans and Nicobars, J.As.Soc.Bengal, Vol 1 (n.s.), 1905, pp 173-6.

Smith, M.A., The Herpetology of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Proc. Linn. Soc. Lon., Vol 153, 1940-41, pp 150-158.

Cherchi, M.A., Una Nuova Sottospecie di Kaloula baleata delle Isole Andamane, Doriana (Genova), Vol 1, No 47, 1954.

Underwood, G., The Classification and Evolution of Geckos, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lon., 124, 1954, pp 475.

Greer, A.E., Subfamilies of Skinks, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoo., Vol 139 No 3, 1970, pp 171-3.

List of the Reptiles and Amphibians from the Andamans and Nicobars in the BM (NH) collection, courtesy BM(NH), 1976.

List of the Reptiles and Amphibians from the Andamans and Nicobars in the BNHS Museum, courtesy BNHS, 1976.

Biswas, S. and D.P. Sanyal, A New Species of Wolf Snake from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Proc. Zool. Soc. Cal., Vol 18, 1965, pp 137-141.

Taylor, E.H., Serpents of Thailand, Univ. Kan. Sc. Bull., Vol XLIV No 9~~4~~, 1963.

Taylor, E.H., Lizards of Thailand, Univ. Kan. Sc. Bull., Vol XLIV, No 14, 1963.

Smith, M.A., Fauna of British India, Vol 11 Lizards, Ralph Curtis Books (reprint), Hollywood Fla, 1973.

Fauna of British India Vol 111 Snakes, Govt of India Press (reprint), 1961.

Hussain, S.A., Narcondam, Island of the Hornbills, Hornbill, (BNHS publ.), Nov 1 (77), pp 26.

Whitaker, R., Two Reptile Nests, Hornbill, Nov 1 (77),

Whitaker, R., and Z. Whitaker, Survey of the Estuarine Crocodile (C. porosus) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, J.Bom.Nat.Hist. Soc. (in press).